WIKIPEDIA

Satawalese language

Satawalese is a Micronesian language of the Federated States of Micronesia. It is nearly intelligible with Mortlockese.

Contents

Satawalese	
Native to	Federated States of Micronesia
Region	Caroline Islands
Native speakers	500 (2016)e18[1]

Language family	Austronesian
	
	• Malayo-Polynesian
	  • Oceanic
	   • Micronesian
	    • Nuclear Micronesian
	     • Trukic
	      • Satawalese–Mortlockese
	       • **Satawalese**

Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`stw`
Glottolog	`sata1237 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sata1237)`[2]

Introduction

History

Satawalese is a language spoken on the island of Satawal, located in the Federated States of Micronesia. The language is also spoken in Yap State, nearby atolls and islands such as Lamotrek, Woleai, Puluwat, Pulusuk, and Chuuk State. Smaller populations of speakers can also be found in Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and some parts of the United States. According to a 1987 census, Satawalese is spoken by approximately 460 people however this number has grown, according to a count taken by researcher Kevin Roddy who reported for about 700 speakers in 2007.

Classification

Satawalese is identified as an Austronesian language and is a member of the Truukic language subgroup. Discovered by scholar Edward Quackenbush, the Truukic subgroup is a dialect chain composed of a variety of about 17 different languages and dialects extending 2,100 kilometers across the western Pacific (Roddy, 2007). This chain begins at Chuuk in the east and stretches towards Sonsorol in the west. In the center of this dialect continuum lies Satawalese. Using the comparative method, which involves the observation of vocabulary and sound correspondence similarities,

linguists were able to link Satawalese as well as its sister languages to the Trukic language family. Sister languages of Satawalese include Carolinian, Chuukese, Mapia, Mortlockese, Namonuito, Paafang, Puluwatese, Sonsorol, Tanapag, Tobian, Ulithian, and Woleaian.

Sounds

Consonants

Satawalese language contains 13 specific consonants. /p/, /f/, /m/, /w/, /n/, /t/, /s/, /r/, /j/, /k/, /t͡ʃ/, /ŋ/, /ɻ/

	Labial	Dental/ Alveolar	Post- alveolar	Dorsal
Nasal	m	n		ŋ
Occlusive	p	t	t͡ʃ	k
Fricative	f	s		
Sonorant	w	r	ɻ	j

The existence of the phoneme /g/ is debated in Satawalese. Some scholars believe the phoneme to be an allophone of the phoneme /k/. It is suggested that in Satawalese language both phonemes can be interchanged without changing the meaning of a word. Opposing studies suggest /g/ to be its own separate phoneme. Because of evidence that shows use of /g/ on its own within Satawalese speech, the suggestion that it is its own phoneme has a stronger stance.

The phoneme /l/ in Satawalese has been identified as an allophone for the phoneme /n/ due to influence of surrounding languages. /l/ is not included in the Satawalese phoneme inventory but is a part of similar languages close in proximity. This phone is understood to convey the same meanings that phoneme /n/ will produce but in surrounding languages there are cases where roles cannot be reversed; /l/ will be able to take the place of /n/ but /n/ cannot take the place of /l/.

Vowels

Satawalese contains nine vowels:/i/, /a/, /o/, /u/, /æ/, /ɛ/, /ʉ/, /ɞ/, /ɒ/.[3]

Grammar

Basic word order

Satawalese use Subject-Object-Verb word order.

Ex: Mary a foato-ki tinikii we aan "Mary wrote her letter."

Reduplication

Reduplication is available in the Satawalese language. It is used mainly to show a progressive form of a verb, noun, or adjective.

Ex

- ''ras'' vt. to pull something until it breaks.
- ''rasras'' vt. progressive form of ras; the continuous pulling of something until it breaks
- ''rig'' adj. small.
- ''rigrig'' adj. progressive form of rig; smaller.

- ''seo'' rested.
- ''seoseo'' v. resting.
- ''pis'' n. splash.
- ''pisipis'' adj. progressive form of pis; 'splashing around'.

Numerals

Like most Pacific languages as well as many languages around the world, Satawalese takes advantage of a base ten counting system. The Satawalese language contains two basic counting systems (Roddy, 2007). One system is the fast version, which is the version used for counting objects as well as game playing. The second counting system in Satawal is the slow version. This system is used when teaching young children the numeral system, and is also used by older generations.

Slow version Fast version English translation

- ''Eota'' *''Eot'' one
- ''Riuwa'' *''Riuw'' two
- ''Eoniu'' *''Eon''three
- ''Faeni'' *''Faen''four
- ''Nima'' *''Nim''five
- ''Wona'' *''On'' six
- ''Fiusa'' *''Fius''seven
- ''Waani'' *''Wan'' eight
- ''Tiwa*''Tiw''nine

Large numbers are also existent in the Satawalese language. All numbers greater than ten are produced by using the conjunction *me*, which translates to the word "and" in English. For example, the numeral eleven is *seig me ew*, which translates to "ten and one" in English or eleven. One billion is the largest numeral in the Satawalese language. It is expressed as *engeras ssen* or *one thousand million*.

Vocabulary

Indigenous vocabulary

- *Saam* –father
- *rheon* –leaf
- *pwun* –heart
- *oattoaur* –to eat (polite form)
- *moat* –to sit

Loanwords

Satawalese has borrowed words from major language countries that had traveled throughout the Pacific such as Japan, Spain, and the United States, as well as nearby languages within the Federated States of Micronesia, such as Woleaian and Ulithian.

Words derived from English:

- *aispwoax* – Ice box; refrigerator
- *felowa* - bread; flour
- *finoras* – flowers

- *frii* – free
- *friiseor* – freezer
- *karesiin* – kerosene

Words derived from Ulithian:

- *aasi* – to take (it)
- *aaileng* – world
- *fiifi* – soup
- *kaerboaw* – cow

Words derived from Spanish:

- *floras* – flowers
- *kanemasa* – pumpkin

Words derived from Japanese:

- ''kanepwas – *calabash*
- *kachito* – movie

Words derived from Woleaian:

- *gamaeinoak* – pretend
- *faisun* – as it is
- " ngang"- Me
- "Ito-come

Endangerment

Materials

Satawalese language resources have become quite abundant in the past decade. Alphabet books, translations, as well as dictionaries are all available in the Satawalese language. Also linguistic studies have been documented sharing the language's grammar, phonology, vocabulary, stories, etc.

Vitality

According to endangeredlanguages.com Satawalese is classified as an endangered language. However, the language Satawalese shows lots of promise for the future. Satawalese is spoken as an L1 by most of the population occupying the island of Satawal. It is also used throughout the Federated States of Micronesia as well as nearby states. Also, according to David Roddy the population of Satawalese speakers has grown to 700 in an accounting taken in 2007. Awareness of the island has been a current enhancement to the language due to the contributions made of voyager Mau Piailug who was known to have been the first navigator aboard the ship of the infamous Hawaiian double-hulled canoe the Hokulea. With this discovery, interest in the island including the people, culture, and language have been uprooted, meaning more linguistic studies can be done, possibly more resources can be added, and so on. Finally, the Satawalese language documentation is outstanding. As stated before dictionaries and alphabet books have been created allowing the transmission of the language to occur between older and younger generations.

Further reading

- The Navigator's Of Satawal, Mau Piailug's Star Compass.mpg. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpX04U9FvTU.

- Roddy, Kevin M. (2007). A Sketch Grammar of Satawalese, The Language of Satawal Island, Yap State, Micronesia. Retrieved from The University of Hawai'i Manoa Scholarspace website:http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstream/handle/10125/20678/M.A.CB5.H3_3421_r.pdf?sequence=2.
- Satawalese. Endangered Languages. http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/5426
- The Trukic Language Continuum in Night Thoughts of a Field Linguist (2005, May 12). Message posted to http://fieldlinguistnotes.wordpress.com/2005/05/12/the-trukic- language-continuum/.

References

1. "Satawalese" (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/stw). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2018-03-28.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Satawalese" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sata1237). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Roddy, Kevin. "A sketch grammar of Satawalese, the language of Satawal Island, Yap State, Micronesia" (http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstream/handle/10125/20678/M.A.CB5.H3_3421_r.pdf?sequence=2) (PDF). Retrieved 13 June 2014.

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